



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Promotes Job Creation and Help for Unemployed

Kind Budget amendment sought to increase Manufacturing Extension Partnership; invest in worker training; and extend unemployment benefits

Washington, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind pressed for an increased investment in America's manufacturing base and job creation for Americans. Kind offered an amendment that would have provided funds, at no added cost to the taxpayer, to help jobless workers and promote job creation by helping small businesses start, grow, and become more competitive. Today's amendment is the latest effort by Rep. Kind to increase the rate of job creation, and it includes ideas that Kind laid out earlier this month in his plan to energize the nation's manufacturing sector.

"The United States has lost nearly 2.8 million jobs since 2001; more than 80,000 manufacturing jobs lost in Wisconsin, having a devastating impact on the manufacturing sector and the job outlook for tens of thousands of Wisconsinites," stated Rep. Kind, a member of the House Budget Committee. "Job creation is essential to the health and strength of our economy, and our budget priorities as a nation should reflect this."

Kind's amendment would have restored funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) to \$110 million for FY 2005; the President's budget proposes \$39.2 million for MEP – maintaining the 60% cut enacted by Congress last year. The amendment would have also extended federal unemployment benefits through June and provided help dislocated workers through adult training programs. The funding for these proposals would come from a slight reduction of tax cuts to people with annual incomes greater than \$1 million, leaving them with tax cuts averaging \$103,041. The budget amendment failed on a party line vote.

"Too many companies around the country have had to close their doors, leaving workers unemployed with little hope of finding good, high-paying jobs," said Kind. "We need to do what we can to reverse this trend and move the country forward. This amendment would have provided much needed aid to both the manufacturing sector and millions of job-seekers. The failure to support this amendment is a failure by the majority to realize the hardship and struggles of the millions of unemployed Americans in this country."